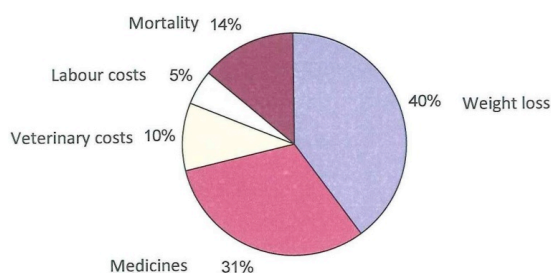


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Calf Pneumonia Update

Calf respiratory disease continues to be a significant economic and welfare problem for the cattle industry with each case in beef calves costing £82 per head and in dairy calves £43 per head.



Dairy heifers treated for pneumonia as a calf will produce 2.5% less milk in their first lactation, together with an increase in age at first calving of two weeks.

This brings the total cost of pneumonia to more than £100 per head for a 7500 litre heifer!

Treatment of Pneumonia:

Although the aim should be to avoid outbreaks of pneumonia by paying attention to housing, management, vaccination etc. The choice of correct treatment and selection of which animals to treat is also very important in limiting the impact and spread of disease.

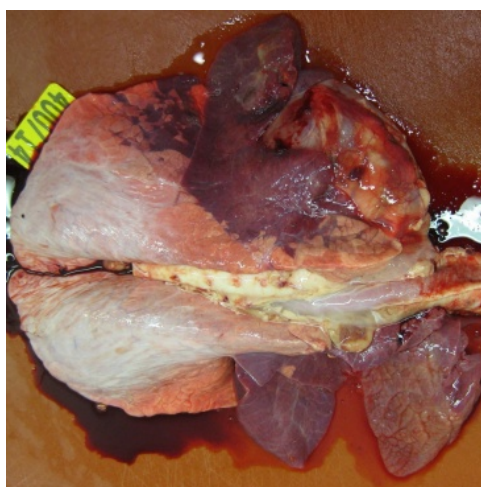
In the face of an outbreak treat those visibly affected and any calf with a temperature above 103°F (39.5°C.)

Treatment of In-contacts - Metaphylactic treatment:

This is where animals in direct contact with affected cattle are treated to try and limit the spread and impact of pneumonia by ensuring that any animals that are affected sub-clinically are also treated as early as possible.

A recent study showed that although 35% of calves in a group were treated for pneumonia at slaughter 72% of the group had lung damage caused by pneumonia.

Metaphylactic treatment should be considered if 20% of a group show signs of pneumonia.



Introducing Zactran

Zactran is a recently released antibiotic from the same family as Micotil and is a very good

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choice for **both** treatment and metaphylactic use.

The advantages of Zactran:

- Provides antibiotic cover for up to 15 days-ideal for metaphylactic use.
- Low dose volume (1ml per 25kg), easily syringed subcutaneous injection.
- Safe to use –no restrictions on dispensing to farmers.
- Competitively priced at £135 per 100ml giving a treatment cost for a 50kg calf of £2.70 compared with Draxxin at £3.08 and Nuflor at £ 2.73.



boosted by vaccinating the dam with a single dose of **Rotavec Corona** in the period 1-3 months before calving.

The vaccine works extremely well - farmers who start to use it don't stop - but we feel more widespread use has been restricted by its price.

To encourage uptake of this vaccine we have managed to negotiate a substantial price reduction to £9.40 per dose!



Practice News

We are pleased to welcome Hannah Fletcher, who has joined the practice to work in both the large and small animal departments.



Hannah's parents are dairy farmers near Nuneaton, and she has a keen interest in all aspects of farm practice

Calf Scour a problem?

If calf scour is a problem on your unit then take the following steps

- **Colostrum-3 litres in first 6 hours, 10% of calf bodyweight in first 24 hours. Recent on farm testing showed less than 30% of calves get enough colostrum!**
- Hygiene-clean and dry pens, disinfection between calves.
- Get a diagnosis-small pot of fresh dung from several affected calves.

Rotavec Corona-Special Winter Offer

On farms where Rotavirus, Coronavirus or E.coli are identified as a cause of scour problems, the colostrumal protection can be further